

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending.

By this Amendment, Claims 1-2 are amended and Claims 3-12 are added. Support for the amendments to Claims 1-2 and subject matter recited by new dependent Claims 3-12 is provided in the application as originally filed, such as, for example, page 4, lines 10-18; page 5, lines 1-27; page 6, lines 11-23; page 7, lines 14-22; and Figures 1-4.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit the claims have been amended in a manner believed to be responsive to the basis of the rejection.

In particular, Applicants note the Office Action states the claims, as originally submitted, recite features that do not adequately describe how two substantially identical sets of oil channels located adjacent to one another can perform two separate tasks, i.e., draw oil in and discharge oil out. Applicants have amended the claims in a manner believed to be responsive to the rejection. Moreover, the Applicants respectfully note that it is the cooperation between the clutch plate and friction plate which creates a screw pump action within the discharge and inflow oil channels that draws oil through the inflow oil channel and discharges oil out of the discharge oil channels, as described, for example, on page 6, lines 11-23 of the application as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-12 recite subject matter which is described in the specification, as originally filed, in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit the claims have been amended in a manner believed to be responsive to the basis of the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 4,967,893 to Vogele. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reason(s).

Claim 1 recites a wet clutch friction plate including, among other features, a clutch plate; a core plate disposed opposite the clutch plate and rotatable relative to the clutch plate; and friction material bonded to a side face of the core plate and disposed between the clutch and core plates, wherein a plurality of oil channels are defined in the friction material and provide communication between inner and outer peripheral edges of the friction material.

A benefit flowing from the features recited by Claim 1 is that the plurality of oil channels promote the inflow of oil and the discharge of oil such that it is possible to stabilize the frictional properties of the wet clutch friction plate by obtaining an appropriate inflow of oil uniformly in the peripheral direction even in a half-clutch state

under conditions in which there is a small amount of oil as well as to prevent the occurrence of abnormal sound or vibration due to stick-slip; and when the clutch is disengaged it is possible to suppress the phenomenon of drag due to oil viscosity resistance by obtaining appropriate oil discharge properties uniformly in the peripheral direction.

Applicants respectfully submit that Vogele does not disclose, teach or suggest a wet clutch friction plate having such features because Vogele does not disclose a wet clutch friction plate.

Rather, Vogele discloses a brake disk 10 having two hub plates 12, 14 which are arranged parallel to each other. A support plate 16 is mounted between the hub plates 12, 14 and serves as a friction lining support. The support plate 16 is a ring with friction linings 22, 24 on both sides close to its outer edge, wherein the friction linings 22, 24 are connected to support plate 16. The friction linings 22, 24 have grooves 26 which have a ribbed profile and form a groove pattern. Vogele teaches the friction linings 22, 24 can have any arrangement, but does not disclose, teach or suggest the friction linings 22, 24 being disposed on the support plate 16 and positioned between the support plate 16 and a clutch plate because Vogele does not disclose, teach or suggest a clutch plate disposed opposite the support plate 16. Moreover, if either one of the hub plates 12, 14 is considered as corresponding to the clutch plate recited by Claim 1, Applicants respectfully point out that Vogele does not disclose, teach or suggest the friction linings 22, 24 being disposed on the friction plate 16 at a region intermediate or between the friction plate 16 and hub plate 12 or 14.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Vogeles does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, a reference must disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature recited by the rejected claim. Since Vogeles does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1 for the reasons provided above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of Vogeles and should be deemed allowable.

Claims 2-12 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1-12, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107348.00603.**

Respectfully submitted,
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